

## Two-Acre Shellfish Grant Approved

By SUSANNA SHEEHAN

Selectmen approved a new two-acre shellfish aquaculture grant this week.

This grant, proposed by John McCluskey of Partridge Rd., will replace a two-acre grant near the beach channel that McCluskey currently has.

Shellfish grants are tracts of Duxbury bay that shellfishermen use to grow oysters, little neck clams, quahogs, surf clams and scallops. On most of the grants, the shellfish seed is in nets under water most of the time and the only thing seen is the buoys that mark the area. The grant locations are not supposed to be hazardous to navigation.

McCluskey said that water moves too quickly through that area near the beach channel that he is abandoning so he is relocating to be closer to his one-acre grant located east of the channel. The maximum grant can be no larger than three acres. McCluskey said he plans to seed the grant with 200,000 oyster seeds in early July.

Selectmen questioned a 75-foot space between McCluskey's one-acre and two-acre grants. McCluskey said he did not plan to encroach on this area with either grant, but it would pro-

vide him with a location to moor his boat and drop off equipment so it was not right on top of the shellfish seeds.

Selectmen approved the grant in concept and location. The Shellfish Advisory Committee and Harbormaster Don Beers also approved the grant.

The shellfish grant application will now be reviewed by state and federal agencies. The Division of Marine Fisheries will conduct a site visit to certify that this location has no impact on things like navigation or historic shellfish activity. An area for a grant is required to be barren of shellfish.

Next, Duxbury Conservation Commission conducts a review. If that board issues an approval, the application is sent to the Department of Environmental Protection and the Army Corps of Engineers. The grant application eventually returns to the Duxbury Harbormaster for his support. After all the necessary approvals, the selectmen will issue a grant license.

Shellfish grants are for a three-year trial period, with a mandatory review after two years. If a grant is successful, a license can be renewed for up to ten years.

There are 28 approved aquaculture grants and there are six applications going through the approval process.

In other business, selectmen:

- Approved an entertainment license for the Wildflower Café on Chestnut St. in Hall's Corner for inside entertainment Friday through Sunday evenings. The owners plan to have an acoustic guitar or folk singer playing.

Reappointed Richard Delisle of Temple St. as a town constable.

- Appointed Robert Diramio, Michael Doolin, Robin Hallowell and Paul McDermott to the North Hill Advisory Committee.

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